

141. PHALACROCORAX, sp. ?

I saw Cormorants on many occasions, especially in the roadstead of Pampator, where they were abundant. They seemed to be about the size of *Ph. carbo* ; but I did not obtain specimens.

V.—On *Acrocephalus stentorius*, a rare Species of Sedge-warbler from Egypt. By S. STAFFORD ALLEN.

(Plate I.)

I CAME upon this remarkable and almost unknown species quite by accident, whilst searching unsuccessfully for the Violet Gallinule (*Porphyrio veterum*) in a small lake about six miles from Damietta, in May 1863.

Shortly after entering the labyrinth of tall reeds which covers the greater part of the lake, and is intersected by narrow lanes of water, along which the flat-bottomed boat is poled, a curious harsh grating note burst out suddenly, with almost startling abruptness, from the reeds a little distance ahead, and was answered by others in two or three different directions.

On questioning the Arabs who accompanied me, they replied that it was “only a little bird,” which I could scarcely believe at first ; but on watching the spot closely for a short time, we presently saw a little sober-coloured bird, rather larger than a Nightingale, hopping in and out among the reeds, every now and then making the air ring with his noisy song.

After some little trouble, owing to their active habits and the difficulty of getting far enough away to avoid injuring them too much, I succeeded in obtaining two specimens, which at the time, not having any books, or skins for comparison, at hand, I took for the Thrush-like Reed-warbler, *A. turdoides*, Temm., though, on seeing the two species together afterwards, the differences were sufficiently obvious. In consequence of this mistaken idea, I omitted putting down the dimensions of these birds and other particulars before skinning, as is my usual practice with the rarer species.

The specific name given to this species in the only published notice of it, which occurs in Hemprich and Ehrenberg’s work on

the 'Natural History of Egypt and Palestine'*, is highly appropriate, as its loud voice is the first point that strikes the observer. Two out of the three specimens mentioned in the above work were obtained in the neighbourhood of Damietta; the third from the shores of the Red Sea.

Rüppell does not appear to have met with this Reed-warbler, as it is not mentioned in his work, and it seems probable that the species will prove to be extremely local.

As I am likely to be in Damietta again in the course of next spring, I hope to be able to supply the readers of 'The Ibis' with more full and accurate particulars respecting the habits, &c., of this curious little bird, and to obtain a good series of specimens.

VI.—On the *Didunculus strigirostris*, or *Tooth-billed Pigeon* from Upōlo. By E. P. RAMSAY.

It appears that the Tooth-billed Pigeon (*Didunculus strigirostris*) of the Navigator Islands is not quite extinct, as has been supposed; and many of your readers will be glad to learn that a living specimen of this peculiar bird has been brought to Sydney from Upōlo, one of that group of islands, by Mr. Williams, H.B.M. Consul. Mr. Williams has kindly allowed me to examine his specimen several times, and has given me the following information respecting its habits.

The *Didunculus*, or *Enalleodea*, is known by the natives under the name of *Manu-mèa*, and was at one time very plentiful on the islands, especially upon Upōlo, where, in August 1862, Mr. Williams obtained his bird. Owing, however, to the number of cats which now infest the island, the *Manu-mèa* has become almost extinct.

* Hempr. et Ehr. Symb. Phys., Aves, fasc. i. :—

"*Curruca stentorea*, H. & E. Specimina 3 adsunt, unum Damiaticum Ægypti inferioris, duo Maris Rubri meridionalis. Habitu et colore *Curruca* (*Sylvia*) *turdoidi* simillima, sed paullo inferior, sexpollicaris, remigum 2^{da} quam 5^{ta} aut 6^{ta} minore, rostro longiore, pedibus gracilioribus. *C. turdoides* differt, statura majore, remigum 2^{da} et 3^{ta} longissimis, pedibus validioribus, longioribus, rostro brevior et paullo altiore. Plura alibi."



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ACROCEPHALUS B. (1842)